

TORREYA

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THREE NEW VIOLETS FROM LONG ISLAND

BY EUGENE P. BICKNELL

It would not be ventured at this time to propose any additions to the number of our eastern violets, already troublesome with new and poorly understood species, were not the plants here to be noticed so signally marked that they can scarcely fail of easy recognition, whether encountered in the field or on the herbarium sheet.

It is suggestive in many ways to find in our local flora three such strongly individualized plants, and of one genus, not to mention others awaiting further study, which have continued to remain unknown, but there is many another like case to remind us how imperfectly, even yet, our common flora is understood.

Viola pectinata sp. nov.

Scarcely or not at all tufted, the plants growing singly or few together from short, erect rootstocks, glabrous, except some very minute hispidulous pubescence on the leaves mostly on the margins and veins: leaves not numerous; petioles slender, elongated, 10-30 cm. long, often purplish; leaf-blades thickish, firm, deep rather bright green, even somewhat shining above, deltoid-ovate to widely deltoid, often wider than long, acuminate or sometimes obtuse, the truncate base often decurrent on the petiole, the sides often concave in outline, closely cut-pectinate below the middle with linear, acute, entire lobes or sometimes sharply dentate; mature blades 6-10 cm. wide, 4-6 cm. long; early leaves much smaller, occasionally narrower and sub-sagittate, finely pectinate or dentate: peduncles shorter than the leaves or sometimes as long: flowers medium-sized, deep purple-blue or paler, the petals whitened and dark-lineate toward the

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base within, especially the pilose-bearded lateral and lower ones, entire or undulate-dentate or emarginate, all often with scattered pilose hairs over their inner surfaces; sepals narrowly lanceolate, tapering-acute, not ciliolate, posterior auricles well developed: capsule oval or oblong, obtuse or rounded at apex, 6–10 mm. long; seeds ovoid, small, less than 1.5 mm. long; cleistogamous flowers on erect peduncles shorter than the leaves, acuminate, small, the sepals 5–7 mm. long.

Southwestern Long Island, in low grounds near or at the borders of salt marshes, often with *V. Brittoniana*. Collected in two localities at Woodmere, and at East Rockaway. Type from Woodmere; in Herbarium New York Botanical Garden.

A noteworthy violet which introduces a strikingly new leaf-pattern among our eastern species. The nearest approach to its configuration of leaf is seen in certain forms of *V. emarginata*, with which species, however, *V. pectinata* need not be confused. Its systematic position appears to lie somewhere between *V. emarginata* and *V. Brittoniana*, perhaps nearer to the latter as indicated by the character of its pubescence and its flowers, as well as by general habit, notwithstanding the marked difference in form of leaf.

***Viola lavandulacea* sp. nov.**

Tufted from short compound rootstocks, rather pale green, glabrous or with traces of minute pubescence on the upper surface of the leaves: petioles slender, much elongated, becoming 15–23 cm. long; leaf-blades oval or ovate and obtuse to deltoid-ovate and acute, abruptly contracted or truncate at the base, often slightly decurrent and a little undulate along the lower margins, obscurely crenate or subentire to crenulate-denticulate, mostly 2–5.5 cm. long, 2–4 cm. wide, or finally as large as 7 × 5 cm.: peduncles 10–30 cm. high, finally much surpassing the leaves: flowers pale lilac to lavender blue, the petals whitened and much narrowed basally, all or all but the two upper ones sharply dark-lincate, the lateral pair bearded with a scant tuft of short gland-tipped hairs, the others glabrous, the lower one notably shorter than the others; sepals glabrous, lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, often sub-falcate, obtusely purplish apiculate; cleistogamous flowers on elongated erect pedicels, linear-lanceolate, the narrow sepals obtuse, the auricles rather small; mature capsule not seen.

Southwestern Long Island, in damp meadows. Collected at Rosedale, and at Woodmere. Type from Woodmere; in Herbarium New York Botanical Garden.

Related to *Viola cucullata* and growing with it, but well set apart from any of the *cucullata* group by its ovate or deltoid strictly non-cordate leaves. By comparison with *V. cucullata* in the field the flowers are seen to be markedly different in color as well as in other characters.

***Viola notabilis* sp. nov.**

Forming large tufts from stout rootstocks: leaves deep green, appearing glabrous but with some minute pubescence, mostly marginal and along the veins; petioles rather stout, becoming 15–35 cm. long; blades ovate to broadly ovate, openly cordate to nearly truncate at base, obtuse or rounded at the apex, bearing below the middle several oblong, obtuse or acutish lobes often extending less than halfway to the midrib but sometimes more deeply cut; the basal lobes often dilated and dentate or lobed along the upper margin: peduncles glabrous, usually much surpassing the leaves, becoming 20–43 cm. high: flowers deep purple-blue, very large, sometimes spreading 3–4 cm. with the petals 10–15 mm. broad, all the petals bearded with glandular hairs or the upper pair glabrous; sepals lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, mostly apiculate-obtuse, distinctly ciliate; cleistogamous flowers narrowly lanceolate-acuminate, on erect peduncles sometimes 30 cm. long, their sepals long-auriculate: capsules oblong, 10–12 mm. long, rather obtuse, little surpassing the sepals.

Southern Long Island. Type from Woodmere; in Herbarium New York Botanical Garden.

A conspicuous and handsome violet of low grounds often in wet meadows or near the borders of damp thickets. It is often found growing with or near *Viola Brittoniana*, to which it is nearly related but is much larger in every way, of more tufted habit, the leaves much less divided, with broader, shorter, more obtuse lobes, the flowers deeper in color with broader petals, the sepals usually distinctly ciliate. *Viola Mulfordae* is at once distinguished from *V. notabilis* by its pubescence and more oblong leaves as well as by its smaller general size and smaller flowers on relatively shorter peduncles.

Late in the season the leaves of *V. notabilis* become more deeply cleft and much enlarged and dilated, attaining a length of 6-9 cm. and sometimes becoming 10-11 cm. broad.

THE DATE OF PURSH'S FLORA

BY JOHN HENDLEY BARNHART

A short time ago Mr. Roland M. Harper called my attention to an inconsistency which has crept into several recent publications, inasmuch as they recognize the priority of plate 1599 of Curtis's Botanical Magazine (*Helonias graminea* Ker) over Pursh's Flora (*Veratrum angustifolium* Pursh),* while they take it for granted that Pursh's work (*Conostylis Americana* Pursh) is older than plate 1596 of the Botanical Magazine (*Lophiola aurea* Ker).

At that time the Botanical Magazine was issued regularly on the first of each month, each number consisting of seven or eight plates with their accompanying text, and each plate bearing the date of issue; so it is a simple matter to determine that plates 1596 and 1599 were issued together on the first of November, 1813. Both volumes of the original edition of the Flora Americae Septentrionalis of Pursh bear the date 1814 on their title-pages; and at first sight it would appear quite evident that Ker's two names have priority over any proposed in Pursh's work.

The situation is complicated, however, by the fact that Ker, under *Lophiola aurea* (pl. 1596), mentions *Conostylis Americana* as a synonym, and cites the Flora of Pursh by volume and page, without anything to suggest that that work might not be in the hands of the botanical public. From this it is evident, either that Pursh's work was published prior to the date given on its title-pages; or that it appeared in parts, the title-page dates marking the completion of its publication; or that Ker had access to the printed but unpublished sheets.

The first of these alternatives is wholly improbable. Post-dated publications are rare, and the reason is obvious; the fraud

* *Stenanthium gramineum* (Ker) Morong; *Stenanthium angustifolium* (Pursh) Kunth.